

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-02

SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 FEA-01 AF-04 ARA-06

EA-06 NEA-06 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 IO-10 /118 W

----- 025056

R 071410Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8042

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HELSINKI 2269

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, OECD, FI

SUBJECT: FINLAND AND THE IEP

REF: A) HELSINKI 2224; B) STATE 236843

1. SUMMARY. FINNISH DECISION ABOUT PARTICIPATION/
MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM (IEP) AND
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY (IEA) IS STILL NOT MADE
BUT INDICATIONS ARE THAT FULL MEMBERSHIP IS UNLIKELY,
FINLAND MAY SEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME OF ACTIVITIES
OF IEP BUT HAS APPARENTLY RULED OUT PARTICIPATION IN
EMERGENCY OIL-SHARING BECAUSE TWO-THIRDS OF FINLAND'S
CRUDE COMES FROM USSR. END SUMMARY.

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2. DURING CALL ON KAARLO YRJO-KOSKINEN, DEPUTY CHIEF

OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY, ECON/COM COUNSELOR MENTIONED SEVERL CONFLICTING PRESS ACCOUNTS CONCERNING POSSIBLE FINNISH PARTICIPATION IN IEA AND IEP. IN THEM FOREIGN MINISTER KARJALAINEN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING FINLAND WOULD "UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES JOIN THE SO-CALLED WESTERN OIL CLUB" AND THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY MADE DECISION IN PRINCIPLE TO THAT EFFECT. PRESS LATER REPORTED STATEMENT BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER LAINE, WHO IS NUMBER TWO MAN IN BOTH FOREIGN MINISTRY AND MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, TO EFFECT THAT GOVERNMENT HAD NOT YET DECIDED ITS POSITION ON MEMBERSHIP IN IEP.

3. YRJO-KOSKINEN SAID THAT IN FACT LAINE, AS REPORTED IN PRESS, WAS MORE NEARLY CORRECT. ALTHOUGH MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED IN CABINET FOREIGN POLICY COMMITTEE, FULL CABINET HAS NOT YET CONSIDERED AND FINAL DECISION THEREFORE NOT YET REACHED. HE SAID HOWEVER THAT IT WAS "UNLIKELY" FINLAND COULD BECOME FULL MEMBER, AS CHAPTERS 3 AND 4 OF IEP AGREEMENT ON OIL-SHARING IN EMERGENCIES PRESENTED GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR FINLAND, WHICH GETS TWO-THIRDS OF ITS PETROLEUM FROM USSR. ON OTHER HAND, COOPERATION AND ACTIVITIES ENVISAGED IN CHAPTERS 1, 2 7 AND 8 OF AGREEMENT WERE OF GREAT INTEREST TO FINLAND AND IT MIGHT SEEK TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE ASPECTS OF IEP IN SOME WAY.

4. YRJO-KOSKINEN SAID FINLAND WOULD IN ANY CASE NOT WORK AGAINST FORMATION OR WORK OF IEA OR IEP. HE NOTED THAT PROJECTIONS BASED ON AMOUNT OF CRUDE OIL USSR IS WILLING/ABLE TO EXPORT TO FINLAND AND RISING CONSUMPTION IN FINLAND INDICATE THAT BY 1980 RUSSIA WILL BE SUPPLYING ONLY ONE-THIRD OF FINLAND'S CRUDE OIL NEEDS AND OTHER SOURCES TWO-THIRDS, REVERSING TODAY'S PICTURE. IMPLICATION WAS THAT FINLAND CANNOT AFFORD TO DISPLEASE USSR BUT, AS THAT COUNTRY WILL BECOME LESS IMPORTANT TO FINLAND OVER NEXT 5-6 YEARS AS CRUDE SOURCE, FINLAND WOULD LIKE TO KEEP LINES OF COMMUNICATION TO NON-SOVIET SOURCES AND CONSUMERS FULLY OPEN ALSO.
KREHBIEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, IEP, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HELSIN02269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740320-1035
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741163/aaaacbuw.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) HELSINKI 2224; B) STATE 236843
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <08-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINLAND AND THE IEP
TAGS: ENRG, FI, OECD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005